

TOWN OF IPSWICH  
MASSACHUSETTS

BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
Meeting of Monday, March 2, 2015,  
Ipswich Town Hall, 25 Green Street

Pursuant to the Open Meeting Law, M.G.L. Chapter 30A, §§ 18-25, written notice posted by the Town Clerk and delivered to all Board members, a meeting of the Board of Selectmen (BOS) was held on Monday, MARCH 2, 2015 at 6 PM in Selectmen's Meeting Room A.

With a quorum present, Chairman Craft called the meeting to order at 6:10 PM  
Selectmen present: William Craft, Chair; Judy Field; Charles Surpitski and Nishan Mootafian.  
Also present: Robin Crosbie, Town Manager  
Not present: Shirley Berry  
The open meeting was recorded, with permission, by Ipswich Access Community Media.

Public Information:

Agenda --Packet

- Consent Agenda
- Minutes – February 10, 2015
- Minutes – February 12, 2015
- Minutes – February 17, 2015
- Employee Status

**Citizen's Queries**

**Phil Goss 417 Linebrook Rd**, has submitted 2 citizen's petitions on ground mounted solar installations for the ATM Warrant. He won't be able to be here for the warrant discussions and is asking if there is alternative way to meet with the Board. Mr. Craft stated he should meet after the 19<sup>th</sup>, when they return from their trip.

**Mooring Regulations--Discussion**

Mr. Craft opened the discussion and stated it does seem that a disproportionate amount of moorings have been assigned to the yacht club, and is wondered if it is within the BOS right to do that. The BOS believes that the moorings are a public resource, and is everyone getting a fair shot at them.

**Gary Champion 3 Pallamino Way**, Questioned that with the proposed revisions to the Board and Committee hand book, does it make it clear that any department has a conflict of interest that is raise, or a complaint or that person must recuse themselves or file a disclosure statement. He wants to see the revisions move forward, it's very important to him on this Harbormaster issue.

Mr. Craft stated that the book he is referencing has not been circulated to BOS yet, and has not been adopted yet.

**Jim Thoen:** Mr. Thoen stated the law is very clear, the DEP has specifically authorized the Harbormaster to do this and has a written procedure. It is also very clear that any grievance with the procedure the authority rests with the DEP. With all due respect to the Board, Mr. Thoen stated that this is not an issue this Board or any town Board can deal with. There is very little new regulations that wasn't there before, clearly regulations had to take into account the procedures. One of the issues that has been addressed is the issue of safe access, and the geographical area should be taken into account. Plum Island is a barrier

island it is low lying. In strong winds that conflict with the tide, you can get dangerous chop. In the summer they often stop launch services due to the dangers. He stated they lose money on their fuel sales, 75% of the sales are to nonmembers. They have to buy special insurance, have inspections every month and have annual system inspections. The Yacht Club employs over 30 people, they are the main operations of the Ipswich Junior Sailing system. The revenue from the transient moorings and other social events go to charity. The biggest thing he would like to state is the location of the yacht club. It is staffed 10 hours a day, 7 days a week during the summer. The employees are licensed by the coast guard.

**Gary Champion 3 Pallamino Way**, Stated he is not opposed to the yacht club having a designated area. All surrounding towns have waterways committees and have regulations put into their bylaws. Gloucester's Harbormaster is the vice president of the Harbormaster Regulations committee. Their bylaw states that the town meetings vote on it. He wants to know how someone can say the BOS has no right to make any decisions but all local towns have different regulations on this. As for safety, Mr. Champion states that, Town Counsel has stated it is not safe to access moorings in a certain area. People come to these waterways because we have some of the best places to put your personal boat. There is a large area that he is concerned about for safety. Mr. Champion states, that Town Counsel told him that 20% of Yacht club moorings is legal, the state counsel does not agree. Public Benefits, there should be a public private interest compromise. He is not opposed to a dedicated mooring area, it is not a right though, it is a privilege. He agrees that the Harbormaster boat should be docked there, it is safer and he agrees this is a public benefit. There are 113 people on the public mooring wait list, and when the decision was made to put the yacht club together with the public wait list it pushed the public back even further. Yacht club members are pushed ahead of the line, and he feels this is not fair. He stated he believes that the Board should consider modifications to the regulations and he would enjoy meeting with them to discuss it.

**Jim Thoen, Chairman of the Yacht Club**-The Harbormaster authority is outlined in the inspector general reports. He stated that it's not true that limited access mooring area is unprecedented in this area. The Eastern Point Yacht Club in Gloucester has the same rules and regulations as the Ipswich Yacht club. He stated that the harbors discussed by Mr. Champion could not be more different than the area in Ipswich. He feels using these as examples is not a good idea. With respect to fuel, there are additional costs to providing fuel and the club does not make the profit he is suggesting.

**Gary Champion, 3 Pallamino Way**-Gloucester is the only other possible comparison to Ipswich. To get to any public or private launch area you have to cut across the outer Harbor. Even the yacht club sailing school will sail all over this area, so why can't a person with a regular boat make this ride? He is asking the Board to look this over and feels it is important.

#### **Vote to Place 1 Year Term on Ballot**

*Vote: Mr. Mootafian moved to file with the town clerk of a notice to fill the unexpired section of Shirley Berry's Term, Ms. Field seconded. The motion passed unanimously.*

#### **Introduction of Senior Planner Ethan Parsons:**

Ethan Parson's, Senior Planner, appeared before the Board. He discussed his background. The Board welcomed him to Ipswich.

#### **Presentation of Capital Budget**

Ms. Crosbie presented the Capital Budget to the Board via a PowerPoint Presentation. This plan includes a five year plan which was coordinated across several departments. Discussion followed regarding the DPW vehicles including, mileage, condition and the idea of buying used vehicles. Discussion continued and included the wastewater and water metering system.

#### **Vote to Set Warrant and Ballot Question**

Ms. Crosbie thought that the Board wasn't quite ready to vote on this yet, due to some committees still working on getting things prepared. She felt that things needed to be discussed regarding funding because

request exceeds the amount available. We have \$277,000 available and \$300,000 in requests. Mr. Surpitski requested the snow budget for this year. Ms. Crosbie stated there is currently \$120,000 deficit but the Town is still waiting on some final costs to come in.. Mr. Surpitski questioned what state of emergency information would be submitted to the state, and Ms. Crosbie confirmed this is being worked on but this is in the beginning progress. She felt if we were lucky we might see something from the state but it seemed unlikely.

### **Consent Agenda**

- a) One Day Liquor License-Ipswich Masonic Temple & Ipswich Ascension Church
  - a. March 14 for Trout Unlimited Banquet. License number 3 for 2015.
  - b. March 28 for Ipswich Music Arts and Drama Association Art Sale. License number 4 for 2015.
  - c. April 3 for Ipswich Fire Victims Fundraiser. License number 5 for 2015

*Vote: Mr. Surpitski moved to approve the consent agenda and Ms. Field seconded. The motion passed unanimously.*

### **Approval of Minutes**

- a) February 10, 2015
- b) February 12, 2015
- c) February 17, 2015

*Vote: Mr. Mootafian moved to approve the February 10, 12 and 17<sup>th</sup> Minutes and Ms. Field seconded. The motion passed unanimously*

### **Old Business**

Mr. Mootafian wanted clarity on the Warrant schedule. The Board will review and set the Warrant at the March 16 meeting and hold a public hearing and vote on recommendations at the April 6 meeting.

### **New Business**

None

### **Adjournment**

*Vote: Mr. Mootafian moved to adjourn at 7:54, Ms. Field seconded and it was unanimous to do so.*

Respectfully submitted by  
Jennifer Dionne  
3.10.15